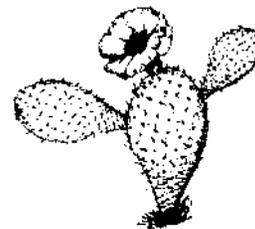




Photo by Sydney Kelley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 10 **March 2007** Number 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Northern Argentina

Presented by **Mark Muradian**

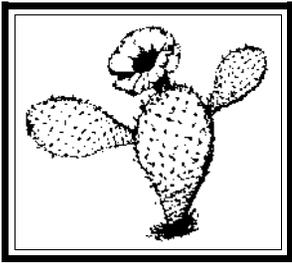
Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Mar 13

Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at **6:30 PM**

(West of 99 freeway
on corner of Olive drive &
Victor street)

**Have you
paid your
dues for
2007?**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 10 Number 3
March 2007

The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society (BCSS) of Bakersfield, California. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the times and places noted within.
GUEST ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

2007 Officers

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Vice-President – Jerry Garrison
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary – Anne Lee
Editors - Stephen Cooley
Linda Cooley

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CSSA Representative – Maynard Moe
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Hospitality - Bill McDonald
Librarian – Rose Mary Maguire
Field Trips – Lynn McDonald
Historian – Stephen Cooley
Show & Sale – Maynard Moe
Garden Czar – Linda Cooley

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February 13, 2007



The meeting began with President Ed Cooley introducing Pat Tenant, a new member. Lynn then gave us the information on the upcoming field trip to the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden on February 18. This trip will include a docent led tour as well as a trip to Nick Wilkerson's nursery (Nick is the one who sold plants at our last Show & Sale). Lynn also mentioned that on Saturday the 17th there will be a presentation on Ferocactus at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History.

Sydney brought up the Yard Sale and a date has been set for April 21-22 (This may change, keep in touch!).

Bonnie has set up a seed exchange, to be held at her house on St. Patrick's day, March 17th (see the flyer on page 14).

Sydney and Bonnie gave us a rundown on the Garden at Cal State. They said that Linda would like to get at least ten people together at one time so that we can finish the soil cement in the pathways. Several possible dates were available, contact Linda.

It was noted that our new librarian, Rose Mary Maguire has inventoried the books in the library and is ready to help anyone wishing to check out a book (a list of books in our library will be printed soon).

Stephen Cooley then gave talked on "Basic Training" which covered the basic aspects of caring for succulent plants in pots. Topics covered included what to look for when purchasing a plant, the pot and the soil.



When to water and what exposure to give the plant. Other topics included potting and repotting and pest control. There was plenty of audience participation and many questions were asked and answered by several people.



MARCH'S PROGRAM

Mark Muradian will give a program on Northern Argentina. Mark has spoken to our club a few times before (dressed in Arab garb and burned frankincense when he talked about Socotra) and he has always given us a good show. You may also remember that Mark is an excellent potter and will no doubt be bringing some pots to sell!

Plant of the Month



Opuntia brasiliensis

If you happen to have one of these in a pot (Do I remember that Sydney has one?) bring it and share it with group!



A Slow Startup A Letter From Bruce

As usual, things didn't get going until the middle of January when most people were back from leave. There was a bit of a pileup on museum talks but I managed to get in a talk on the 24th called "What is a cactus - and what are these American plants doing in Africa?" This started with a tour of North & South America followed by an indigenous *Rhipsalis* in Malawi. The second half



covered all those invaders which continue to be brought across the Atlantic.

That evening there was a book sale and one of the sale items was, "The World Encyclopedia of Cacti and Succulents" by Miles Anderson (2000, Hermes House, London). Even at the bargain price of P62 (about \$10) it was only just worth it. Lots of

color pictures, but some could be better. The *Sesamothamnus* is a very young plant, the *Pedilanthus pitiful*, and the *Huernia levyi* looks nothing like the ones in Botswana. On p.9 there is a *Kleinia* but on p. 202 the name *Senecio* is used. I much prefer the latter, but whichever is used, it should be used consistently. Some of the "habitats" are ludicrous. For *Zamioculcus* they list Africa! (This is a red data species of Zimbabwe.) Africa is also listed for *Portulacaria afra* of South Africa as well as a couple of different sansevierias.

On the 25th an *Orbea* bloomed. It turns out to be *Orbea carnososa* subsp. *keithei*, a plant which I discovered in 1989 on the first trip with the National Museum. This time I had collected in just north of Bobonong (25 April 2005) and did not recognize it as it was much bigger and had no flowers. (I tentatively listed it as *Orbea huillensis*, but was surprised to find it so far south. I should have recognized the long narrow tubercles.) The variation in plant size is found in many genera of carrion flowers - probably due to multiple sets of chromosomes. I found

a third location for the species in Nov. 2005, but this will be flooded when they build a new dam.

On the 26th the Swedish Ambassador paid a courtesy call to see the botanic garden. She reminded us that Linnaeus is 300 this year, so we have promised to put up an exhibit. A representative from Kew Gardens showed up at the same time, so we had an interesting tour.

On the 1st of February the Millennium Seed Bank bunch went to Mochudi to look for a couple of *Arctotis* species (African daisies). They are listed in our red data book based on South African records, but we didn't find them. I suspect they were escaped garden hybrids. We did find a couple of wild cucumbers in bloom. One of them, *Coccinea sessilifolius*, has semisucculent leaves as well as a huge juicy tuber.

On the 4th we went with the Bird Club to the Metsemothabe River. Lots of birds, a few succulents (*Sansevieria aethiopica* was just past blooming), and a field full of dried gourds. That afternoon Polly drove down to Good Hope for yet another session of quilting. She returned on the 6th.



On the 8th I gave a talk on "The Cucumber Family in Botswana" which was sponsored by the Botswana Society. Only a few more books were sold, but this included a copy for the Russian Ambassador. I showed color slides, which is a lot better than the black-and-white sketches in the book. I also had a display of plants including a gourd rattle from the museum in Mochudi and gourds from the field visited on Sunday.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

March 4, 2007

pictures by Sydney & Sasha

Well, we had a great group out working today! We weeded, watered, and walkwayed. We also installed Andy's great *Ferrocactus sculpturatus*, a very rare and unusual specimen. We are honored to be the recipient of this amazing cactus! Thank you Andy!

Our walkway is coming along. It wasn't as easy to do as the first patch...maybe we tried to do too much at one time.....Anyway, we finished another section, this time using 5 sacks of cement. It will probably take another three or four sessions to do all of the walkways. Thanks to everyone for their muscle power! The garden is looking good. Stephen



removed the clearly-dead plants, and we left some plants that were dead-looking; we hope they are only "sleeping" and will resprout in the near future.

Our next garden workday will be April 1 (no fooling!) I guess we will try to do more of the walkway. We hope we get more rain by then, which will mean more weeding! If it doesn't rain, we will be watering!

Hope to see you next time,

Linda

WIND WOLVES PRESERVE

Work party dates: Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9.

**Report On The Field Trip To The
SAN LUIS OBISPO BOTANICAL GARDEN**

On Sunday, February 18, ten members and friends of our club traveled to San Luis Obispo for a tour of the San Luis Obispo botanic "preview" garden.

The first seeds for the Garden were planted in 1989, with the support of San Luis County Parks Department. Incorporated in 1991, a grassroots group, the Friends of SLO



Aloe distans

Botanical Garden, began searching for an ideal site. El Chorro Regional Park was chosen because it offered a convenient location between San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay, good soils, no horticultural limitations, and already was zoned as a public space. A 40-year renewable lease agreement was signed with San Luis Obispo County in 1993 for 150 acres.

We were greeted by docent and board member Gracia Bello and her husband Gene. Two members of the Central Coast C&SS were also in attendance. Gracia discussed the garden's beginnings, succulent plants, the Mediterranean climate, frost damage and answered questions. We then strolled among the

plantings. One particularly nice aspect of the garden is it's hillside location, which shows off the plants attractively.

We then all met at Nick Wilkinsen's nursery, Grow, at Moonstone Gardens. Always personable, he visited with us, showed us around & gave us a club discount on our purchases. After a delicious lunch at the Moonstone Garden restaurant, we all drove north to observe the Northern elephant seals. It was a very windy day, but sunny and we



Aloe glauca

all had a good view of the bulls, cows and very noisy pups. Coffee in Cambria fortified us for the drive home. It was a very enjoyable outing and I am pleased we had such a good-sized group.

Lynn McDonald

CSSA 32nd Biennial Convention
Seattle, May 25-30, 2007

[I know that not many (if any) of you will be going to this year's convention, but I thought I would give you a look at just what goes on. The convention is held every other year and is often much closer to home. –editor]

Schedule

Our schedule is packed with speakers on four days (two days of succulents and two days of cacti) sandwiched around a day of field trips and bookended with banquets and entertainment. Please check back as this listing updates.

Friday, May 25, 2007: Welcome

- 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration
- Dinner On your own
- 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Welcoming reception
- 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Sales of raffle tickets for early entry to sales area

Saturday, May 26, 2007: Succulents Day 1. Opening Banquet

7:00 AM Sales area open to raffle winners
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Sales area open to all
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm CSSA Silent Auction open to all
 9:00 AM Welcoming Remarks
 9:30 am-10:30 am Sheila Collenette - Succulent euphorbias in Saudi Arabia
 10:45 am-11:45 am John Lavranos - Madagascar
 12:00 am-1:00 pm On your own
 Lunch Peter Gammarano - Secrets of a Windowsill Garden
 2:30 pm-3:30 pm Graham Williamson - Part one of "Kuene to the Karoo" Kaokaland in Namibia to Richtersveld and Bushmanland in South Africa
 3:45 pm-4:45 pm Urs Eggli - Succulent Plants - An Inside View
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Panel Discussion
 7:30 PM Welcoming Banquet with special guest speaker - Graham Charles - "Highlights of South America - a compilation of 16 visits!". A Presentation of Awards will follow.

Sunday, May 27, 2007: Succulents Day 2. CSSA Auction.

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Sales area open to all
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm CSSA Silent Auction open to all
 8:30 am-9:30 am Myron Kimnach - Moroccan Adventure
 9:45 am-10:45 am Peter Gammarano - Plant Giants of the Succulent World
 11:00 am-Noon Graham Williamson - Part two of "Kuene to the Karoo"
 Lunch On your own
 1:30 pm-2:30 pm John Lavranos - The Yemen
 2:45 pm-3:45 pm Sheila Collenette - The Plants of Jabal Shada
 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Dan Mahr - Succulent Trees (including cacti): Part 1
 5:00 pm-5:30 pm CSSA President: Open Forum for All CSSA Members
 Dinner On your own
 7:00 PM CSSA Auction

Monday, May 28, 2007: Daytime Field Trips.

All day Sales area closed
 Morning Depart for Field Trips
 Trip 1 A trip to Yakima, Washington to view the outdoor garden of Ron McKitrick then on to view the native Pediocactus in

the hills surrounding Yakima with Ron as our guide.

Trip 2 A peregrination to Weyerhaeuser Rhododendron gardens and world famous Bonsai collection, a visit to the Ballard locks and the English garden at that location, and a visit to the Seattle Conservatory, which has a wonderful collection of all different types of plants including cacti, succulents and everything in between. We are planning to have lunch at this location outside on the lawn (tents will be set up if the weather requires it).

Note There are no entry fees at either of these locations. The CCSS put a lot of effort into these trips and a few more. Some of the trips were combined (more for your money) and one or two cancelled due to restrictive entrance fees, time, and/or logistics

Dinner On your own
 7:30 pm-9:30 pm Meeting for Certification of CSSA Judges

Tuesday, May 29, 2007: Cactus Day 1. Small Meetings.

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Sales area open to all
 8:30 am-9:30 am Dan Mahr - Succulent Trees (including cacti): Part 2
 9:45 am-10:45 am Jon Rebman - Succulent Flora of Baja California
 11:00 am-Noon Nick Heiting - Cacti and Succulents, an Introduction to Living Plant Art
 Lunch On your own
 1:30 pm-2:30 pm Joe Clements - Chile – Cold, Dry, Beautiful
 2:45 pm-3:45 pm Myron Kimnach - Cacti of the West Indies, Costa Rica, and the Andes
 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Leo Martin - Cacti From Seed, Indoors, Cheaply, in a Small Space
 Dinner On your own
 6:30 PM Affiliates' Meeting Select the 2011 CSSA Convention Host City.*
 7:30 PM Newsletter Editor's Meeting
 8:30 PM cacti_etc Meeting
 Wednesday, May 30, 2007: Cactus Day 2. Closing Banquet. Passing of the Gavel.

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Sales area open to all
 8:30 am-9:30 am
 9:45 am-10:45 am Urs Eggli - Understanding the Cacti of Chile
 11:00 am-Noon Leo Martin - Cacti of the Valley of the Río Huaura in Perú
 Lunch On your own
 1:30 pm-2:30 pm Joe Clements - Southern California Hot Spots
 2:45 pm-3:45 pm Jon Rebman - Baja California Succulents – Research

and Resources

4:00 pm-5:00 pm Nick Heiting - Desert Islands, Magic Mountains,
Hanging Gardens

7:00 PM Closing Banquet with Spectacular Entertainment

Questions? Contact the convention chairman, Duke Benadom
Duke-kaz@sbcglobal.net This e-mail address is being protected from
spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it

Update on the Freeze

Last month I wrote to you about how I protected my plants from the Freeze. I am happy to report that all of my aloes survived. Some are blooming and many are preparing to bloom. One or two of the ones that looked marginal are now putting out new growth and look great. I think I only "lost" a Kalanchoe, which isn't a surprise since they are usually quite tender. My South African bulbs are starting to bloom and



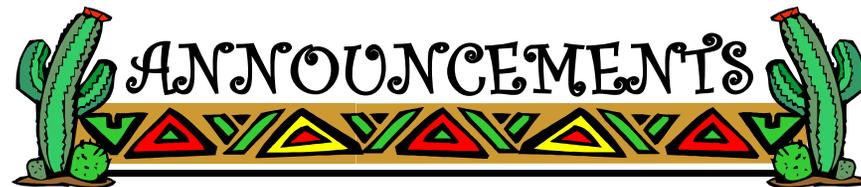
Aloe longistyla

there will be quite a show of flowers soon. Crassula aussensis is getting ready to bloom as well--a first in my garden!

Linda



Aloe gariensis



Bobbie Williams

Ed would like to talk to about some Agaves for the yard sale. Contact him at 834-7935. We've missed your input in the club and hope you can come back sometime to see us!

Our Library

Librarian Rose Mary Maguire would like to encourage everyone to check out the library. She is anxious to have you discover the great books that the club has. For more info, contact her at: 399-0394

Plant Sale

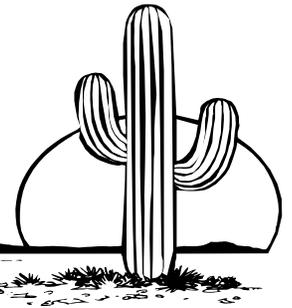
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is having their Spring Plant sale March 31st. This would make a great field trip!



**1ST ANNUAL
SEED EXCHANGE
MARCH 17, 2007
10101 GRAND VIEW
SUMMIT DR.
BONNIE'S PLACE
(661) 706-3834
bonnie_east@sbcglobal.net**

The seed exchange is for ANY kind of seed, not just Succulents. Feel free to bring in vegetables, flowers, etc.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Mar 13 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church

Speaker: Mark Muradian

Program: Northern Argentina

Mar 17 1st Annual Seed exchange. Bonnie's Place, 10101 Grand View Summit Drive

Mar 31 Field Trip? Rancho Santa Ana Botanic garden Spring Plant Sale. 10am-2pm. 1500 N. College Ave, Claremont. www.rsabg.org

Apr 1 Garden Work day – Cal State

Apr 14-15 Annual BCSS Yard Sale at Sydney & Jack's house

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

Apr 7-8 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula.

May 25-30 CSSA 32nd Annual Convention. Seattle Airport Doubletree.

Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$10 per year for an individual and only \$15 a year for a family. This extraordinarily reasonable price not only includes twelve issues of The Cactus Patch but entitles you to participate in club field trips to far-off (out-of-town) and exotic places (more exotic than Bakersfield). You will also receive a nifty name tag that will be your ticket to a members only plant raffle. All this is in addition to the wonderful programs and people at the meetings. To become a member contact:

Maynard Moe, treasurer

Lithops44@bak.rr.com

contact the editors for more information

Stephen Cooley

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley